

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00794 110938Z

10
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /147 W
----- 063862

R 110820Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3954
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL BUJUMBURA 0794

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BY, US
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN ON US BURUNDI RELATIONS

REF BUJUMBURA 638

SUMMARY: FONMIN EXPRESSED CONCERN TO AMBASSADOR AUG 10
CONCERNING ASPECTS OF RECENT US POLICY TOWARD BURUNDI.
DISCUSSION WAS POINTED BUT AMICABLE AND REFLECTED NO
APPARENT INTENT TO SEEK CHANGE IN PRESENT MODUS VIVENDI.
END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN ARTEMON SIMBANIYE THIS MORNING ON OTHER MATTERS, HE AGAIN RAISED SUBJECT OF OVERALL RELATIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND BURUNDI.
2. SIMBANIYE NOTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM HAD DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION AT LENGTH WITH AMBASSADOR NDABANIEW IN JUNE, AGAIN MAKING CLEAR THAT RELATION WITH BURUNDI WERE TO BE HELD "FROZEN." THERE HAD, MOREOVER, BEEN TALK IN POLITICAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00794 110938Z

AND PRESS CIRCLES IN US OF ACTION AGAINST BURUNDI COFFEE

AND EVEN, AT ONE POINT, COMPARISONS MADE BETWEEN SITUATIONS IN BURUNDI AND SOUTH AFRICA. FINALLY, THERE WERE REPORTS, WHICH APPEARED TO BE CORRECT, THAT USG HAD APPROACHED CERTAIN AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE, AS WELL AS SECRETARIED GENERAL OF UN AND OAU, WITH REGARD TO INTERNAL SITUATION IN BURUNDI, AN IMPORTANT STEP IN VIEW OF WEIGHT CARRIED BY US IN WORLD AFFAIRS. FONMIN LEFT PRESENTATION HANGIN WITH THESE REMARKS BUT SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE MY COMMENTS.

3. I REVIEWED WITH FONMIN BACKGROUND OF US DECISION TAKEN LAST OCTOBER AND RECONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR NDABANIYE IN JUNE TO REDUCE RELATIONS TO MINIMUM LEVEL (NOT "FREEZE"). AS HE KNOW AND HAD MENTIONED, THIS HAD MEANT SUSPECISION OF ALL PROGRAMS WHICH HAD PROVIDED A LINK AT FUNCTIONAL LEVEL BETWEEN BARUNDI AND AMERICAN PEOPLES, WITH EXCEPTION OF HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES PROGRAM. LATTER THEREFORE ASSUMED UNUSUAL IMPORTANCE IN TOTAL ASSESSMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS. THE US WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK AT RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI IN THE LIGHT OF CRITERIA OF WHICH HE WAS AWARE. THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSER RELATIONS COULD ALSO BE AFFECTED BY EVENTS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH HAD BROKEN THE CALM OF BURUNDI AND THE AREA THREE MONTHS AGO. WITHIN THESE STRICTURES IMPOSED BY REACTIONS WITHIN AMERICAN PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL CIRCLES TO REPORTS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN BURUNDI, THE EMBASSY WOULD OBVIOUSLY SEEK TO MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL AND NORMAL PERSONAL AND WORKING RELATIONSHIPS.

4. I NOTED IN RESPONSE TO HIS OTHER COMMENTS THAT (A) GRB HAD BEEN ADVISED OF OFFICIAL USG POSITION ON COFFEE QUESTION, AS PUT FORWARD BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN; (B) MR NEWSOM HAD EMPHASIZED TO AMBASSADOR NDABANIWE PROBLEMS CREATED FOR US POLICY IN AFRICA BY DIFFICULTIES IN BURUNDI-- FONMIN'S REMARK ABOUT PARALLELS BEING DRAWN BETWEEN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND BURUNDI SITUATIONS ILLUSTRATED QUESTIONS BEING POSED BY OUTSIDE OBSERVERS IN THIS REGARD; (C) CONCERNING US EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH AFRICANS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WE HAD INDEED EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN AND SEARCHED FOR COMMON APPROACH TO WAYS OF ASSURING NON-VIOLENT SOLUTION TO QUESTIONS WHICH SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BARUNDI PEOPLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUJUMB 00794 110938Z

NDABANIQE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THIS IN NO WAY REPRESENTED US INTENTION INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS AND THAT APPROACH LIMITED TO NON-PUBLIC FORUMS.

5. CONVERSATION WAS AMICABLE, AND FONMIN AND I PARTED WITH ASSURANCES OF OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

6. IT APPEARED THAT SIMBANANIYE HAD IN MIND
EXPLORING CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS AS US SEES IT, AND
US INTENTIONS, RATHER THAN EFFORT MOVE THESE RELATIONS EITHER
FORWARD OR BACK AT THIS TIME. MEETING WAS AT MY INITIATIVE,
AND I MAY HAVE BEEN PART A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY, THOUGH
ONE FOR WHICH HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PRIMED. SIMBANANIYE DID NOT
REFER TO OUR PREVIOUS EXCHANGE (REFTEL) WHICH COVERED
SOME OF SAME GROUND.YOST

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARBITRATION, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CIVIL DISORDERS, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUJUMB00794
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS YOST
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730843/aaaabfnr.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUJUMBURA 638
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <25-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN ON US BURUNDI RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005